

**Congressman Childers Praises Supreme Court for Striking Down Gun Ban,
Co-Sponsors Bill to Protect Additional Rights of Gun Owners**

June 26, 2008

Washington, DC - Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) applauded the Supreme Court for today's 5-4 vote against the Washington, D.C. gun ban. The vote overturned a law that prohibits private citizens from possessing guns in the Capital City that had been in effect since 1976.

"I strongly support the Constitution's Second Amendment and the right for law-abiding citizens to own guns, and I praise the Supreme Court for today's ruling to defend this right," said Congressman Childers. "I believe the right to bear arms is a fundamental freedom, and I am proud to support legislation to protect the civil liberties of gun owners in North Mississippi and throughout the nation."

Today's decision reconfirms the notion that the Second Amendment applies to private citizens as well as militias, and is the first time the Supreme Court has ruled on this amendment for almost seven decades.

Congressman Childers further demonstrated his dedication to protecting the rights of gun owners by recently co-sponsoring a National Rifle Association (NRA)-backed bill to reform penalties for firearms law violations and restrict the disclosure of information on firearms purchasers.

On Thursday, June 12, Congressman Childers signed on to H.R. 4900, The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) Reform and Firearms Modernization Act. The initiative requires the Attorney General to make determinations on firearms licenses applications and notify applicants in writing if they are denied licenses, and to establish ATF guidelines for inspecting, examining, or investigating possible firearms violations.

Additionally, H.R. 4900 prohibits the ATF from disclosing information on firearms purchasers other than to a court or law enforcement official. The initiative also restricts the disclosure of information in the ATF firearms trace system database, while increasing penalties for the possession of firearms by felons with prior convictions of a crime of violence or a serious drug offense.

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